mentioned above, it appears somewhat doubtful if much purpose would be served by passing this Resolution.

(D) Preservation of Records on rights of land

(4) Resolution by Dr. Durgaprasad Bhattacharya

"Resolved that the Records of Rights of land be preserved on a sample basis for selected mauzas of each State to represent each type of tenure, economic and ethnical groups of people as may be required by scholars in socio-economic historical studies. Resolved further that a committee be formed to examine various types of records of rights, their availability and the procedure of selecting sample villages in consultation with Director of Land Records of each state, appropriate department of Union Ministries, Central Statistical Organisation, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Indian Statistical Institute and Socio-Economic Research Institute, Calcutta which is conducting studies on records of rights."

Explanatory note:

Khatians or records of right contain a mine of information on the actual state of our agrarian relations. Growing subinfeudation had been a prominent feature of the tenural development in India following the Permanent and other contemporary Settlement. Subinfeudation and the creation of an intermediate interest on land is first reported to have occurred in Burdwan.

(Third Appendix to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, London, 1832).

Records of rights are available at different points of time. In each khatian, Block No.1 contains information about upper rights, Block 2 about the rights recorded in the particular khatian giving name of persons, proportion of individual share, title of the rights, area held and area leased out. At the second page of the Khatian, one will get the plot numbers, land-type, and share of this particular right in the plots. Lastly, it contains subsequent khatian numbers for tracing out information as to how the leased out land has been disposed off. This is generally applicable upto the first post - independence settlements especially in permanantly settled areas.

These records are of extraordinary importance to study of socio-economic changes based on the structure of ownership of land for every plot of India. Genealogical tables may be formed and connected with individual plots over past half century or one and a half century depending on the availability of records. Such relations will reveal whether land is getting more concentrated in the hands of traditional owners at the cost of lower castes and classes or weaker sections. These records will also help to find out malafide land transfer occurred particularly during the decades 1951-1971. These invaluable sources of quantitative material of history are not being preserved. It may not be out of place to quote the following.

"In Deccan or Dukhun, revenue or cadastral surveys undertaken as a basis for land assessment data from the reign of Akbar, in whose time over 7 million acres in Gujarat were measured in connection with the system of Todarmal. By Akbar's settlement, as reported by C.J.Prescott, Superintendent, Revenue Survey, Gujarat on 21-3-1862 in connection with Kaira Survey, " a correct account of boundaries of each village was drawn out, and the whole land carefully measured...In the time of Shah Jahan this survey was extended to Deccan. The First for which records are available is that undertaken by Bijapur Sultans at the end of the sixteenth century. This survey formed the basis of revenue assessment till 1817 though the original settlement was practically revised by Sivaji as the country passed under the sway of the Maharattas".

Standing Commistee's Views:

It is not clear from the resolution whether it refers to the old records or to the semi-current records of the rights of land.

Regarding the old records, it may be stated that as per recommendation of the Committee on Archival Legislation, no records of a date earlier than 1850 should be destroyed on any account whatever, has been accepted by almost all the States. Moreover, the Record Management Committee appointed vide Resolution III of the 43rd Session of Indian Historical Records Commission held at Lucknow in January, 1975 to report on the large scale destruction of old public records in several states has also requested all the States that no records of the pre-1947 period should be destroyed pending the report of the Committee.

As regards the appraisal and management of semi-current records, instructions have already been issued under "Policy Resolution in respect of the records of the Union Government", and the various States have also been requested to issue instructions on similar lines.

In view of the above, the Committee proposed in the Resolution seems to be unnecessary. Moreover, the Committee proposed has excluded from its membership the representatives of State Governments or Archives and of the National Archives of India, who are intimately connected with the appraisal and preservation of records. The formation of the Committee without any Archivist does not appear appropriate in any case.

(E) Ph.D.Theses on Modern Indian History

(5) Resolution by Dr. G.D.Patel

"Resolved that One typed copy of all the theses bearing on Modern Indian History approved by the Indian Universities for the award of Ph.D. are to be deposited in the National Archives of India. In case of difficulty in typing the National Archives of India is to undertake microfilming of the theses. The Commission recommends that the National Archives of India may prepare two microfilmed copies, one for the National Archives of India and the other for the State Archives for the use of scholars."

Explanatory Note:

At the 40th Session of Indian Historical Records Commission held at Madras on 18-20 February, 1970, the Commission passed Resolution XVI stating that copies of all